

DRAFT CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and that has an amino acid sequence which is modified by amino acid substitution compared with the amino acid sequence of wild type *Aequorea victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said modified fluorescent protein comprising:

- i) an amino acid substitution at position F64;
- ii) an amino acid substitution at position E222; and
- iii) an amino acid substitution at position S175;

wherein said modified GFP provides increased fluorescent intensity as compared to wild type GFP.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein ~~further~~ comprises a protein of interest fused to a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) ~~fluorescent protein and~~ that has an amino acid sequence which is modified by amino acid substitution compared with the amino acid sequence of wild type *Aequorea victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said modified fluorescent protein ~~including~~ comprising:

- i) an amino acid substitution at position F64;
- ii) an amino acid substitution at position E222; and
- iii) an amino acid substitution at position S175;

wherein said modified GFP provides increased fluorescent intensity as compared to wild type GFP.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and that has an amino acid sequence which is modified by amino acid substitution compared with the amino acid sequence of wild type *Aequorea victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said modified fluorescent protein consisting of:

- i) an amino acid substitution at position F64;
- ii) an amino acid substitution at position S65; and
- iii) an amino acid substitution at position S175;

wherein said modified GFP provides increased fluorescent intensity as compared to wild type GFP.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein ~~further~~ comprises a protein of interest fused to a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and that has an amino acid sequence which is modified by amino acid substitution compared with the amino acid sequence of wild type *Aequorea victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said modified fluorescent protein ~~including~~ comprising:

- i) an amino acid substitution at position F64;
- ii) an amino acid substitution at position S65; and
- iii) an amino acid substitution at position S175;

wherein said modified GFP provides increased fluorescent intensity as compared to wild type GFP.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and that has an amino acid sequence which is modified by amino acid substitution compared with the amino acid sequence of wild type *Aequorea victoria* Green Fluorescent Protein, wherein the amino acid Ser at position 65 has been substituted by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Gly, Ala, Leu, Cys, Val, Ile and Thr.